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Letter from Thomas G. Clemson, 1866 June 10

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Recommended Citation

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Briefly June 17th 1846

My dear Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed favor of the 11th of March, it was long coming, but came at last. I am very much pleased to hear from you, that your operations are so successful, and show all so profitable, that they may continue to be so for yourself & your children until the end of the chapter is my sincere desire, and wish it were in my power to be able to insure you living a thousand years to enjoy greater success if possible in

There appears to be a compensation in all things. You had a severe drought last year, whilst we had all most untimely rains, and cold weather. It is now very dry & hot, and without rain shortly, the harvest will be shorter than it was last year, though you perceive from different causes.

It is impossible for me to say how long I shall remain in Europe, though I the income, without the place I should not remain a very long time in Naples. The trappings of office & the routine of placing such a position entails, has not the least attraction for me. I should much prefer a more lucrative occupation, and have not the fortune to engage in the lavish expenditures that such a position makes necessary. In the United States the pay of a minister is thought large, but few consider the thousand and one expenditures that such a position entails. Every thing in this world is relative, and our diplomatic corps are less well paid than ^{that of} other powers, yet you are called upon by the representatives of your country to make an appearance at court and elsewhere, and where there is so much expected and in associating with the wealth of the land it is

as much as can be done if you can keep up the appearance of
decent respectability. The representative of the United States abroad
is rather an onerous & ungrateful office. It often leads to expensive
habits and often ends in poverty and if I have been correctly informed
many of our country men have had to regret the part. I get along
as I should ~~do~~ all my life to try to live as their pay & income
be it what it may, if I can inform you that they never met any
circumstances been beyond what I could easily spend and in the position
in which I find myself I ought to have the double the sum that
I have. In other countries it is a profession and individuals who enter
the career at an early day in life, rise by degrees and die in the
profession or retire at an advanced stage with a pension in proportion
to the time they may have served, or the rank they may have filled. I have
said that I ought to have double the sum, by which I mean, that all our dip-
lomatic agents should receive double the amount now received, to give you
an idea of the manner that France & England pay. The French Am-
bassador at this place receives more than twenty thousand dollars per
annum. The English minister upwards of twenty-five thousand ~~dollars~~ ^{pounds}
and this court is comparatively one of little importance, whilst at Paris
London or Ambassadors receive forty, fifty or sixty thousand dollars
per annum. So that your present pay of charge d'affaires (being
\$4,500 per annum) is comparatively nothing. There remains, I have not
been made in a spirit of dissatisfaction but merely as a piece of in-
formation. If a man accepts a position, he has no right to complain
of the terms.

It would be a good thing if you could visit the western part
of the United States. I am sure you would see life under a new

found and if you could run up into Habersham County Georgia & see
our works in the environs of Clarksville you will judge of the posi-
tion ~~and the~~ ^{for} all kinds of manufacturing. I do not
hesitate to say that a fine position you have never seen. A
small outlay of capital that would be required to put the works in
operation, and the many facilities you could have of carrying the
works on in connection with those you have in ~~Charleston~~
might induce you to take hold of them, and if managed with
attention they might be made profitable at once & greatly en-
larged with advantage. There are few furnaces in operation in
the South, they receive all their iron from the North & from
Europe & ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~at all~~ ^{at all} ~~conducted~~ ^{conducted} properly will not fail
to succeed and to give very large profits. I believe that water
might be made for any amount, already Savannah & Augusta of-
fered up large contracts to supply those cities with iron pipes.
The water power is unlimited, with a 60 foot fall almost perpendicular, and
on a new & fine stream. Wood is abundant & cheap, and the country around
is growing. You might in a short time put those works into such a
condition as to do an immense business, & by having depots in Charleston
Savannah & Augusta, you would almost supply the Southern Country
with all kinds of iron, such varieties that you could not make with
advantage in the South you could make in Pennsylvania. Your ~~best~~ ^{best}
residence being in Penna. you could send on such workmen as you
pleased to select & you could purchase goods in the North which would
give large profits at the works in Georgia. The country is delightful
& healthy. There is a continuous rail Road from Charleston to Athens
in Georgia & a stage from Athens to Charleston Clarksville 60 miles

The country around Charleston is richly during the summer & the low
country planters flock to the upper country (Charleston is in the former)
named. I hope you will find it convenient to visit the spot this
fall. Long about the month of October or November. One of my
friends & partners John R. Mathews lives about four miles from
Charleston he would take great pleasure in showing you every
thing about the works & he would be willing to make any arrange-
ment you desired. You might either lease, rent or purchase
the other interests at a small part of their real value.
I expect that I hope you may find it convenient to go there
and see for yourself four days from Phila. would place you
on the premises. As a general remark it will be found that profits in business
are much greater throughout the south than in the North, all that is required
is order economy & enterprise, and by good and situated along branches of a similar
character North, large profits might almost certainly be calculated upon.
I have received one letter from Williams since his removal, to which I hope
sincerely that he will do well & wish that you could have made it to your ad-
vantage to have engaged with him in business, he has some valuable qualities &
qualifications that might have profited both you in a private business.

Mr. Clemson desires her kindest remembrance to Aunt to whom you
kind will make my best wishes acceptable. If I should be in Europe when it
visits Lybster & Woody to cross the Atlantic rest assured that I will do what I
can to send them in every ^{way} that lies in my power. There is nothing that I can
say to you that will interest you from this side of the ocean, save that I hope
maintains a good price & from appearances I should not be surprised if continued
to do so for some time to come.

Very sincerely yours

Thos. S. Clemson

Elias Paquet Esq.